

R. Michael Turnnspeed, Director

ALLEN BIAGGI, Administrator

(775) 687-4670
TDD 687-4678

Administration
Water Pollution Control
Facsimile 687-5856
Mining Regulations & Reclamation
Facsimile 684-5259

State of Nevada
KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



Waste Management
Corrective Actions
Federal Facilities

Air Quality
Water Quality Planning

Facsimile 687-6396

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Esmeralda Project, a gold mining facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Permit NEV87072 is:

Metallic Ventures (US), Inc.
Esmeralda Project
5450 Riggins Court, Suite 2
Reno, NV 89502

The facility, known as the Esmeralda Project, is located in Mineral County, Nevada, in Township 5 North, Range 28 East, Sections 2 through 4, 7 through 11, 15 through 20, and 29 through 32, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian (MDB&M), approximately 33 miles southwest of the town of Hawthorne, near the historic mining town of Aurora.

The project consists of past open pits (Prospectus, Humboldt, Martinez/Juniata/Chesco, Last Chance, and Ann Pits) and two underground mines with ore processed by a Carbon in Leach (CIL) mill. Near-surface or low-grade ore will be bulk mined by open pit method, while high-grade ore, inaccessible by the open pit method, will be mined by underground methods. Mill waste is deposited in the tailings impoundment. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to issue the Water Pollution Control Permit renewal or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue the permit renewal.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed permit renewal, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit renewal, or who request a public hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (June 26, 2003) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
Capitol Complex
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact [Alan Tinney](#) at (775) 687-9414, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.